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A.J. Eaton [Washington, DC] to W. Beaumont [Saint Louis, MO] regarding: remarks concerning Andrew Beaumont, the “Old Man and Little Van” (Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren), and Senator Preston’s objections to Eaton’s business before the Senate Committee on Military Affairs. December 27, 1835

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Washington City

27th December 1835

Dear Doctor,

Forgive me for all the
situation & obloquy your splenetic dispo-
sition has heaped upon me, in consideration
of the kindness you have done me, by making
me acquainted with a very clever fellow.

I delivered your letter to your cousin, and
had a long talk with him, and I was infinitely
pleased with him, and if the truth must be
told, he is the only full grown Beaumont of
the masculine gender, with which it has been
my fortune to become acquainted, that is worthy
of any decent man's notice. - Expected to
find him a little shriveled up, dark, designing,
crooked looking fellow, very much like
yourself, from your description of him; but
instead of that, I found him quite a good looking
man, which is certainly very remarkable, con-
sidering his name. - You slandered him vilely,
in your description of him, which, by the way,

to a man acquainted with your character, does not appear at all singular, but this we can settle at another time.

You ask if I have "soaped the old snow & little Paul": as if you thought I had taken you for a guide, & had soap enough to spare, after ~~bothering~~ ^{soaping} myself enough to make me go down sick. I have not "soaped" either, but I have drunk some of the "old man's" champagne, and have eaten some of his oysters & ham, but I am fearful that I shall never be able to say the same of Paul's meat & drink.

My business is before the Senatorial Committee on Military affairs, and they meet on Wednesday next, to decide on the nature of the report they will make, and my period of suspense will therefore be short. I have felt suspense of a favorable report, but some doubts have arisen in my mind, from a conversation I had with Senator Preston, to say, who is one of the Committee, but I still have strong, and I think, not unreasonable hopes. He stated one or two objections, which I believe removed.

If a favorable report is made, there can hardly remain a doubt of success, though I shall have to be busy to get a bill passed this

session, under the most favorable circumstances,

I am anxious to get away from here, and turn
my face westward; more especially, as my
family is in that direction from here.

Remember me kindly to Mrs Beaumont,
Knightsburg, and my other friends, & believe me to
be, most truly

Your friend,

A. J. Eaton

H. M. Beaumont Esq.
Surgeon U. S. Army
St Louis

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QJ

Surgeon Wm Beaumont

U. S. Army

Saint Louis
Missouri

